(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A Conference of State Forest Ministers was held in New Delhi on 18-19th April, 1994.

(b) and (c) Various issues relating to conservation and protection of forests, recruitment, training, Indian Forest Service cadre management, forestry research and wildlife conservation were discussed. State of forest cover and allied forestry matters in North-Eastern States were also specifically discussed. Recommendations have been made on these issues and are being conveyed to all concerned for implementation.

Deforestation in Rohtas and Jhabua Districts of Bihar

7657. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that palamau, Chotanagpur and Santhalparganas Hills and Bindhya ranges of Rohtas and Jhabua districts of Bihar have been denuded, deforested consistently over decades;

(b) whether it is a fact that growing economic activities in these regions have polluted Sone, Damodar and all other rivers of the area;

(c) whether it is a fact that the whole process of deforestation has adversely affected the ecology and environment of the whole area; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures Government will take in the matter with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the state Govenment and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cyclic Flood Havoc in North Bihar

7658. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deforestation and consistent environmental degradation in the lower Himalayan regions of Nepal and Nepal Terai areas adjoining northern border of Bihar is causing cyclic flood havoc in North Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the North Bihar rivers like Koshi, Gandak, Narayani, Bagmati, Kamla Balan and Adhvara group of river originate in the Himalayas in Nepal; and

(c) if so, what steps Govenment are taking to control the situation with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Excessive soil erosion in the catchment areas in the Himalayas and heavy rainfall are the primary causes of floods in Bihar.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Various measures like in-situ soil and moisture conservation through vegetative and engineering methods, afforestation in the catchment areas, stream bank stabilisation, embankment of rivers, etc. are taken up to control the floods.

कस्बों/नगरों में प्रदूषण की समस्या

7659. श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत के कितने कस्बों और नगरों में पर्यावरण की समस्या विद्यमान है; और

(ख) सरकार इससे निपटने के लिए क्या उपाय कर रही है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) भारत के सभी शहरों और नगरों में उद्योगों, मोटर वाहनों तथा घरेलू अपशिष्ट जल के